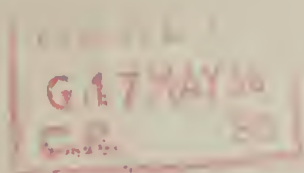


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STURMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

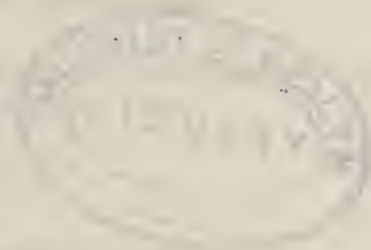
1955.

Medical Officer of Health -

NOEL F. PEARSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector -

F. HODSON, M.S.I.A., A.M.I.P.H.E., M.R.S.H.



Council Offices,
STURMINSTER NEWTON,
Dorset.

1st June 1956.

To the Chairman and Members,
Sturminster Rural District Council.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1955.

The report is prepared and will be circulated in accordance with the requirements of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935 & 1951.

The report shows that the health of the District has remained satisfactory during the year and that there has been no undue incidence of serious infectious disease.

I am indebted to Mr. Dean and Mr. Hodson, your Water Engineer and Sanitary Inspector, for their co-operation and help during the year and for their assistance in preparing this report and to my clerk, Miss.P.Goddard, for her efficient services throughout the year.

May I also acknowledge the happy co-operation and assistance I always obtain from your Clerk, Mr. Steptoe, your Housing Manager, Miss. Bradley, and all the other members of your staff.

Finally, I would like to thank you, Ladies & Gentlemen, for your courtesy and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

K. J. Brown

Medical Officer of Health.

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STURMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR

1955.

A. Area - 45,364 acres.

Rateable value - 1st April 1955 - £47,028; 1st April 1956 - £73,138.

Production of a penny rate - 1st April 1955 - £187; 1st April 1956 - £287.

Vital Statistics.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate) - 9,880

LIVE BIRTHS.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>		Comparative figures (a) Sturminster R.D.C. (b) England & Wales	
Total	83	84	) Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = 16.9		
Legitimate	80	82			
Illegitimate	3	2		18.2	15.0

STILLBIRTHS.

Total	2	Nil	Rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths = 11.8		
				11.8	23.1

DEATHS.

Total	67	64	Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = 13.3		
				10.0	11.7

Deaths in infants under one year	3	1	Infantile death rate per 1,000 live births = 24.0		
				24.0	24.5

			<u>1955.</u>	<u>1954.</u>	<u>1953.</u>
Deaths from Maternal Causes	-	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
" " Tuberculosis	-	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
" " Cancer of the Lungs	-	4	1	Nil	Nil
" " Coronary Disease (Angina)	-	19	17	18	
" " Influenza	-	1	Nil	3	
" " Pneumonia	-	5	3	2	
" " Motor vehicle accidents	-	2	3	1	
" " All other accidents	-	2	1	Nil	
" " Suicide	-	Nil	2	2	

B. Nature of the District.

The District is essentially agricultural in character. Glove making, both in the factory and in the home is also carried on in many parts of the District.

C. Personal Health Services.

The personal health services, including the Ambulance Service, continued to be provided by the County Council.

The Public Health Laboratory Service has continued to be most helpful and co-operative in connection with the supervision of the quality of the water and milk supplies in the district and the control of infectious disease.

D. Environmental Health Services.

Sanitary circumstances of the district -

1. SANITARY STAFF.

Engineer and Surveyor	-	J. H. Dean, F.S.I.A., C.R.S.I., M.I.P.H.E. who is also a qualified Sanitary Inspector.
Chief Sanitary Inspector	-	F. Hodson, M.S.I.A., A.M.I.P.H.E., M.R.S.H.
Additional Sanitary Inspector	-	J. A. Macdonald.

Both Sanitary Inspectors are engaged full-time on sanitary duties and meat inspection.

Clerical Staff - one whole-time clerk and typing assistance from typing pool.

2. WATER SUPPLY.

(a) Quantity.

Consumption.

From Council's own Sources	191,539,000	
From Wincanton R.D.C.	<u>3,915,000</u>	
		195,454,000
<u>Deduct Bulk Supplies to</u>		

(1) Dorchester R.D.C.

(a) Brockhampton	1,934,000	
(b) Buckland Newton	3,818,000	
(c) Supplied direct from mains	<u>2,500,000</u>	
		8,252,000

(2) Sherborne R.D.C.

(a) Holwell and Bishops Caundle	10,072,000	
<u>Less Hardwick</u>	862,000	
<u>Less Cridland</u>	<u>28,000</u>	
	<u>834,000</u>	
		<u>9,238,000</u>

17,490,000

NET DISTRICT CONSUMPTION - 177,964,000

Total water afforded by meter - 70,525,000

Total unmetered water (mainly domestic) - 107,439,000

Average per head per day based on population of 9,500 persons - 31 gallons.

Sources.

The sources of the Council's water supplies are from four springs out of greensand outcrops, giving the following lowest yields:-

Cookwell, Okeford Fitzpaine	150,000 g.p.d.
Duntish, Buckland Newton	96,000 g.p.d.
Ibberton	26,000 g.p.d.
Shillingstone	26,000 g.p.d.

Total - 298,000 g.p.d.

Supplies are also obtainable from boreholes at Alton Pancras which were test pumped in 1948 fourteen continuous days at 30,000 g.p.h.

No shortage of water occurred during the year owing to the progress made on the Comprehensive Scheme in the laying of trunk mains.

There was some complaint of low pressure in the Marnhull area and at Kingston, Hazelbury Bryan, entirely due to distribution problems caused by long lengths of small main but by the end of the year these problems were overcome.

Bulk supplies of water received from Wincanton Rural District Council via Priors Down were stopped entirely on the 9th October 1955, at which stage new trunk mains from Alton Pancras were able to take over.

(b) Quality. The quality of the Council's water supplies has been satisfactory throughout the year. Regular monthly samples have been submitted for bacteriological examination in addition to regular checks for the quantity of residual chlorine and annual samples for chemical analysis.

All sources of supply have been regularly chlorinated, at the Alton Pancras source by chlorine gas and at all other sources by chlorine.

In addition to the regular monthly samples, nine samples have been taken from private sources. Three of these were satisfactory, two suspect and four unsatisfactory. Chemical samples were taken from the spring at Okeford Fitzpaine and from the reservoir at Knapps Hill, Buckland Newton, the latter being contaminated as a result of contamination of the water supply by bituminised paint.

(c) New Works. The following new works were completed during the year -

- (1) Completion of 9" A.C. main to Frith Reservoir and Stalbridge Low Level Reservoir.
- (2) Completion of 7" main from Stalbridge to Marnhull and connection to the existing Marnhull mains.

Contracts let or under way:-

- (1) Re-laying of 3" main from Kings Stag to The Antelope, Hazelbury Bryan.
- (2) Re-laying of 3" main Droop to Hazelbury Bryan Church.
- (3) Re-laying with 6" and 5" main the existing 4" and 3" main from Buckland Newton to Mappowder.

The Council has a programme of future Contracts as follows:-

- (a) Re-laying of 3" with 5" main Okeford Fitzpaine to Shillingstone.
- (b) Re-laying of existing 2" with a 4" main from Pilwell to Convent, Marnhull.
- (c) Construction of an additional reservoir at Rake Hill, Alton Pancras.
- (d) Construction of new Reservoir, Broak Oak, Sturminster Newton.

Distribution.

PARISH.	Council Mains			Private Mains			Wells etc.	
	In	Out	Public Stand-pipes	In	Out	Public Stand-pipes	In	Out
Child Okeford	148	4	-	4	-	-	1	6
Fifehead Magdalen	45	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fifehead Neville	40	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hazelbury Bryan	140	8	-	1	-	-	1	4
Hanford	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Hammoon	15	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hinton St. Mary	9	-	-	42	7	-	-	-
Ibberton	30	3	-	1	-	2	2	-
Lydlinch	74	8	-	-	-	-	1	1
Manston	42	2	-	-	-	-	1	-
Mappowder	42	-	1	-	-	-	1	5
Marnhull	281	12	1	4	-	-	2	4
Okeford Fitzpaine	125	2	-	4	-	-	-	-
Pulham	40	4	1	-	-	-	-	-
Stalbridge	297	12	3	-	-	-	-	2
Shillingstone	148	2	-	4	-	-	2	2
Stoke Wake	-	-	-	16	-	-	-	-
Stourton Caundle	70	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Woolland	-	-	-	17	3	1	-	6
Sturminster Newton	397	8	1	-	-	-	1	2
Wootton Glanvilles	40	2	-	10	-	-	-	2
TOTAL	1993	72	7	103	10	3	12	39
Council Houses	1108			8				
TOTAL	2101	72	7	111	10	3	12	39

Apart from the parishes of Stoke Wake, Woolland, part of Glanvilles Wootton and part of Hinton St. Mary, the whole District is covered by an efficient water supply Scheme.

The Council has given some consideration to a proposal for laying public mains in place of the existing private mains (which are inefficient) in the parish of Hinton St. Mary and have decided in principle to do this work at the appropriate time. As regards Woolland, investigations are proceeding to enable the Council to decide what steps they should take for a water supply having regard to the following position. Whilst there is a very good existing Spring and private main supplying the bulk of the village with satisfactory water, the condition of this main is such that it requires replacement and storage facilities. The higher part of the village has an inadequate supply of water in respect of two farms and some half-dozen cottages and this deficiency could be met by taking a supply from a private scheme at Stoke Wake or a small pumping scheme from the existing Woolland Spring, or the extension of mains together with a Pumping Scheme from the Council's Ibberton source.

Of these Schemes, one will have to be determined in the near future and at the appropriate time.

With regard to Stoke Wake, there is a new private borehole Scheme which is progressing very slowly but which would appear to promise an adequate supply for the parish of Stoke Wake including four Council houses which, up to the present moment, have received a very inadequate supply of water.

The parish of Glanvilles Wootton appears to be adequately supplied in the parts where no public mains exist by the existing private mains.

3. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

New Works.

(1) Sturminster Newton Sewerage. The treatment works came into operation by the linking up of the old sewers and the Milk Factory drains to the inlet sewer of the works. The laying of sewers in Bath Road and Newton was also completed during the year.

(2) Marnhull Sewerage Works. The improvement of these works by the provision of sludge beds, humus tank and sludge pumping station was also substantially completed by the end of the year.

Existing Works.

Maintenance work at the smaller Sewage Disposal Works at Marnhull, Manston, Hazelbury Bryan, Pulham, Mappowder, Glanvilles Wootton and Stourton Caundle as well as various housing estate sewerage systems has been successfully carried out by a flying squad of two workmen, who also operate the Council's cesspool emptying service.

The sewage disposal works at Stalbridge and Shillingstone each employ one full-time attendant and at the Sturminster Newton sewage works there are two men employed with a responsibility for the maintenance of the various sewerage pumping stations at Marnhull, Child Okeford and Shillingstone.

Samples of all effluents are regularly taken by the Dorset County Council and the great majority have been found, on examination, to be satisfactory.

Approved Schemes.

A starting date has been awarded for the provision of a main sewer from Hinton St. Mary to Marnhull sewage disposal works and this will serve the Council houses at Hinton St. Mary and a few private houses where drainage conditions are unsatisfactory. The remainder of the sewerage of Hinton St. Mary will be carried out at a later date.

The following Schemes have been approved by the Ministry but have not yet been commenced.

- (a) The remaining sewers in Sturminster Newton.
- (b) Sewerage for the remaining parts of Hinton St. Mary and Marnhull and also further extensions to Sewage Disposal Works.
- (c) Hazelbury Bryan - Sewering remaining part of this Parish and extension of Sewage Disposal Works.
- (d) Glanvilles Wootton - Sewering remaining part of built-up area.
- (e) Kings Stag.

The Kings Stag Scheme provides for the acceptance and treatment of the effluent from the Milk Factory as well as the acceptance of the drainage from the existing Council house schemes. It will also provide facilities for the adequate drainage of other premises in the locality. There is urgent need for this scheme to be proceeded with.

4. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

(a) House Refuse. A monthly collection of house refuse, with a fortnightly collection in the more built-up areas, is made, and the refuse is dealt with by controlled tipping at the Fifehead Neville tip. This tip has now been in use since 1952 and it will be recalled had an estimated life of seven years. Owing to the method of bulldozing out tipping lines the life of the tip is likely to exceed this estimate and may be more than ten years.

New tipping sites at Todber and Henstridge were inspected, but difficulties arose in connection with the acquisition of these sites, both of which are situated outside the Rural District boundary. It is hoped that the Todber Quarry will be available before the existing tip is filled.

Serious consideration was given during the year to the question of making a fortnightly collection the rule in those parishes at present only receiving a monthly collection but, in view of the increased estimated cost incurred, the Council decided to continue the existing arrangements.

(b) Salvage. Sales of waste paper have shown an increase during recent months and efforts are being made to secure a further increase. The value of this collection fluctuates as the price obtained for waste paper varies, a drop of ten shillings per ton having occurred towards the latter end of the year. The new baling shed at the rear of the Council garages is nearing completion and will permit the release of the chapel at Hinton St. Mary when completed.

Materials to the value stated below were salvaged and sold during the year -

Paper	£331.	13s.	2d.
Metals	£25.	5s.	6d.
Rags	£16.	8s.	7d.
Carpet etc.	£1.	11s.	8d.

£374. 18s. 11d.

(c) Cesspool Emptying. The cesspool emptying service, operated under Section 74 of the Public Health Act 1936, has been valuable during the year and has almost eliminated cesspool nuisances. This cesspool emptier is also used in connection with the maintenance of small sewage disposal works in small villages and on housing estates and also operated at the request of adjoining Rural Districts.

No. of loads taken from cesspools during the year - 960.

5. RIVERS AND STREAMS POLLUTION.

During the year complaints were received about the state of the ditch receiving the effluent from the slaughterhouse at Manston. This ditch was cleaned out and in recent months the effluent has been very much improved.

6. SHOPS ACTS.

Twenty-five inspections were carried out under the Shops Acts in the course of which three defects were found and dealt with.

7. FACTORIES ACT 1937.

	<u>No. of premises on register.</u>	<u>Inspections.</u>	<u>Written Notices.</u>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	14	16	3
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	32	35	3
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	15	28	2
Total -	61	79	8

	<u>No. of cases in which defects were -</u>		
	<u>Found.</u>	<u>Remedied.</u>	<u>Referred by H.M. Inspector.</u>
Want of cleanliness	3	4	-
Sanitary Conveniences -			
Insufficient	5	4	-
Unsuitable or defective	4	3	1
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	1	1	-
Total -	13	12	1

No. of outworkers = 78.

8. SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action was called for or taken during the year.

9. SWIMMING BATHS.

There are no swimming baths in the district to which the public have access.

10. MOVEABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES.

No camping sites were licensed, but ten licences were granted permitting individual caravans to be stationed on specific sites.

11. VERMINOUS PREMISES.

During the year disinfestations were carried out in two premises affected with cockroaches, eight affected with fleas and thirty premises affected with flies. The infestations of flies were found in the roof spaces of houses and were treated successfully with smoke generators. It is quite likely that a large number of premises are so affected without the infestation being discovered that I am certain if householders were to inspect their roof spaces annually and treat them for hibernating flies during the winter, a significant reduction in the number of flies during the summer time would be achieved.

12. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS.

The North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee of which the Sturminster Rural District Council is one of the six constituent authorities, continued to carry out the provisions of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949.

The Rodent Officer and his staff of two operatives are available for the treatment of infestations and the organisation has worked smoothly during the year.

During the year 72 inspections were carried out by the Sanitary Inspector and 521 by the Rodent Officer and his staff who, also, carried out 350 treatments.

13. RAG FLOCK & OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT 1951.

There are no premises subject to registration under the above-mentioned Act within the district.

14. PET ANIMALS ACT 1951.

One inspection was carried out under the above-mentioned Act during the year. No premises were licensed during the year.

15. SCHOOLS (INCLUDING SCHOOL CANTEENS).

The standard of hygiene of the school canteens in the district has remained consistently high. During the year water flush sanitary conveniences were provided at Child Okeford School.

16. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS 1948 & 1951 - Section 47.

No action was called for or taken during the year under these Acts for the compulsory removal of persons requiring institutional or hospital care.

17. HOUSING.

No. of houses in the district 3375

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year -

No. of dwelling houses inspected during the year 513

No. of inspections made 663

No. of informal notices served 36

No. of informal notices complied with 29

No. of statutory notices served 5

No. of statutory notices complied with 5

No. of houses reported under Section 11
of the Housing Act 1936 8

Action taken by the local authority in
respect of such houses -

Demolition Orders made Nil

Undertakings accepted for -

(i) Closure 5

(ii) Reconditioning Nil

(iii) Other action Nil

No. of houses included in Clearance Areas during the year Nil

Slum Clearance.

In accordance with Section 1 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954, the required return was made to the Ministry of the Council's proposals with regard to slum clearance. This return showed, in the opinion of the Council, the estimated number of unfit houses (requiring to be dealt with under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936 or by clearance) was 134 and that the Council proposed to deal with these houses within the next five years.

Of these 134 houses, 23 are already in existing Clearance Areas, 18 are proposed to be included in further Clearance Areas and 29 are to be dealt with under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936 as individual unfit houses.

Overcrowding.

One case of statutory overcrowding was found during the year and was abated.

Housing Let in Lodgings.

No houses are known to be let in lodgings.

Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954.

No applications were received during the year for certificates of disrepair under the above-mentioned Act. This would suggest that property owners are not taking advantage of the provisions of the Act to enable them to increase the rents.

Improvement Grants (Housing Act 1949 and Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954).

Twenty five applications were received during the year (compared with thirty-two during the preceding year) for grants under the above-mentioned Act. Twenty-six grants were made and the consideration of two were still pending at the end of the year.

Requisitioned Premises etc.

No houses were held under requisition by the Council at the end of the year. Two houses on which Demolition or Closing Orders had been made were occupied under licence at the end of the year.

Provision of New Houses and Re-housing.

Twenty-three new dwellings were provided by the Council during the year and nine by private enterprise. The total number of council houses in the district is 1,123. 124 families were housed by the Council during the year.

Old People's Grouped Dwellings.

The following figures relate to the change of occupancy of the grouped dwellings in the eight years during which one or more of these have been occupied and may be of interest.

The total number of old people occupying these dwellings have been 89. The average age of taking up the tenancy has been 74 years. Twelve tenancies have ceased as a result of death, one on transfer to other accommodation, five as a result of the old person going to live with relatives and five as a result of transfer to hospital accommodation. In no instance has a tenant from one of these grouped dwellings required to be transferred to Part III accommodation, i.e. an Old People's Home. These figures would appear to confirm that the provision of this type of grouped dwelling for old people does reduce the demand for Part III accommodation.

18. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

1. Milk.

Food & Drugs (Milk & Dairies) Act, 1944.

No. of 'dealers' subject to registration
by the District Council under regulation 14
of the Milk (Special Designations)(Raw Milk)
Regulations 1949 6

No. of 'dealers' subject to licensing under
regulation 14 of the Milk (Special Designations)
(Pasteurised and Sterilized Milk) Regulations 1949 6

No. of 'dairies' in the district subject to
registration under regulation 8 of the Milk &
Dairies Regulations 1949 3

No. of 'distributors' subject to registration
under regulation 8 of the Milk & Dairies
Regulations 1949 13

Samples.

106 samples of milk were taken and submitted for examination
during the year.

Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949 - Regulation 20.

No action was called for or taken during the year.

2. Other Food Premises.

No. of premises in the district subject to Section 13 of the Food & Drugs Act 1938	<u>114</u>
No. being - restaurant kitchens	<u>4</u>
hotel kitchens	<u>24</u>
food factories	<u>12</u>
No. of such premises inspected	<u>4</u>
No. inspected being - restaurant kitchens	<u>12</u>
hotel kitchens	<u>4</u>
food factories	<u>18</u>
No. of premises in the district subject to registration under Section 14 of the Food & Drugs Act 1938	<u>49</u>
No. of such premises registered in respect of -	
(a) Ice-cream	<u>38</u>
(b) Sausages and prepared meats	<u>11</u>
No. of premises inspected during the year	<u>65</u>
No. of samples of ice-cream taken and submitted for Methylene Blue Test	<u>38</u>

Results:-	Grade 1	-	29
	" 2	-	6
	" 3	-	1
	" 4	-	2

No. of inspections of food stalls 65

Food Inspection.

Slaughterhouses. Two licensed slaughterhouses continued to be used
in the district during the year.

Only a small amount of meat slaughtered here is,
in fact, consumed within the district, most of the carcasses (principally
pigs and calves) are sent out of the district and yet the responsibility
for the inspection of these carcasses for fitness for human consumption
rests on your Council and is a charge on the local rates. This would
appear to be inequitable.

Although it is now eighteen months since the control of slaughtering ceased, there is still no adequate safeguard in respect of the disposal of condemned meat found unfit for human consumption, although legislation to make such provision has been promised.

Meat Inspection at Slaughterhouses.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	<u>Pigs.</u>	<u>Cattle.</u>	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>Sheep and Lambs.</u>
Number killed	1098	1908	8872	284
Number inspected				
Ante Mortem	593	820	4075	109
Post Mortem	1098	1908	8872	284
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis.</u>				
Whole carcase condemned	2	20	15	-
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	438	955	466	47
Percentage of the number killed affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	40.07	51.10	5.46	16.54
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>				
Whole carcase condemned	1	25	6	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	47	461	11	-
Percentage of the number killed affected with Tuberculosis	4.37	25.47	0.19	-

Meat Inspection at Butchers' and Other Shops.

Twenty-eight inspections were carried out as a result of which seventeen pounds of meat or meat products were condemned.

Other Food - 102 tins of other food were condemned at Food Shops.

19. SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS (INCLUDING HOUSING) CARRIED OUT.

Total No. of inspections (under all headings)	1975
Total No. of informal notices served	75
Total No. of informal notices complied with	65
Total No. of statutory notices served	5
Total No. of statutory notices complied with	5
No. of prosecutions	Nil

E. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.

Other than Tuberculosis -

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified.</u>
Measles	144
Whooping Cough	5
Pneumonia	4
Erysipelas	3

It will be noted that Measles was epidemic in the district during the year, but that no case of Poliomyelitis occurred.

Tuberculosis -

<u>New Cases Notified.</u>		<u>Deaths.</u>	
<u>Respiratory.</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory.</u>	<u>Respiratory.</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory.</u>
3	-	2	-

Food Poisoning.

There was one case of suspected food poisoning notified during the year.

NOEL F. PEARSON.

Medical Officer of Health.

